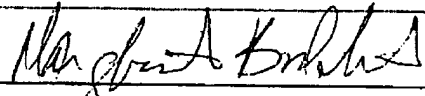


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.			
Name (Print/Type)	Margherita Badalamenti	Fax # (if faxed)	703-308-2742
Signature		Date	October 1, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/899,767
Applicants : THOMAS E. MALLOUK et al.
Filed : July 5, 2001
TC/AU : 1639
Examiner : Devon R. Byrd

Docket No. : 105557
Customer No. : 23490

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated August 11, 2003, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-16 in view of the following amendments and remarks. A response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment is attached herewith, and the listing of claims below have been revised to incorporate the proper status identifier with the claims as amended in the preliminary amendment. As this response is within one-month of the mailing of the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, no extension of time is necessary.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this response.

Request for Reconsideration 09/899,737
Pag 1 of 5